

May 2, 2018

Side-by-side fires will showcase risk and home sprinklers in action May 12

"Sometimes people just need to see it, to believe it," says deputy chief Thomas Doherty.

That's why the City of Campbell River Fire Department will intentionally light two fires in front of a live audience during the fire department's annual open house.

This year's event takes place May 12 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the No. 1 fire station, located at 675-13th Ave.

"There's nothing like the heat and smoke of a real fire to help adults and children understand just how fast a home fire grows," says Doherty. *"With our side-by-side comparison, we can show why a typical home fire becomes deadly in three minutes or less – and the value of having a fire sprinkler system installed."*

This dramatic, yet safe, demonstration has become increasingly popular with fire departments across the country.

"By providing this unique live fire comparison, on May 12, Campbell River residents will gain a firsthand appreciation for fire's power and realize what an incredible advantage it is to have a fire sprinkler system installed if a fire breaks out," Doherty adds.

What's involved? Two structures have been built to simulate the room and contents of a typical home. Each room contains common furnishings, window treatments and a working smoke alarm. Only one of the rooms contains a fire sprinkler. The two rooms will be transported to the Home Hardware parking lot across from the fire hall where the fires are scheduled to be lit at 1 p.m.

The open house will include many other exciting, and fun, events for families such as a chance to be raised 101 feet in the air with the ladder truck, hands-on opportunities with a fire hose and target, and hydraulic rescue tools. In addition to the many interactive events, firefighters will provide a live demonstration of a vehicle rescue at 11 a.m.

The department will host a by-donation barbecue with hot dogs, hamburgers and refreshments, with all proceeds going to Cameryn's Cause.

The Campbell River Fire Department is proud to work in partnership with the Home Fire Sprinkler Coalition – Canada, the National Fire Protection Association, Home Hardware Canada and Caledonia Fire Protection Ltd. to bring this important educational opportunity to Campbell River.

"If you're building, renovating or thinking of buying, take a few minutes to learn how you can add the life-saving fire sprinkler into your home," Doherty concludes.

Free information is available about home fire sprinklers from HFSC's web site. Visit HomeFireSprinkler.org to learn more about this life-saving technology, see video clips and animations that answer common questions, and read about real-life fires where sprinklers saved lives.

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